

Grafton Planning Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, January 10th , 7:00 PM

Grafton Town Hall 2nd Floor

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81340393010?pwd=TDk5Y3FDaUNYNVBHNmRRVGNwbWRiZz09>

Not ADA Compliant: Please provide notice should access or assistance to the meeting be required

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to Order 7:02
2. The agenda was approved, with addition of map update and correction of “Grafton Outdoor Association” to “Grafton Outdoor Alliance”
3. The minutes of the minutes from Nov. 9, 2022 were approved.
4. Ken Finch, Board Member of the Nature Museum, Nikolas Katrick, the executive direction and Suzanne Welch came to discuss the Grafton Outdoor Alliance. Ken Finch has a 45-year career in environmental education and conservation working with nature centers and museums. The Board is talking about a marketing plan to create an brand identity for Grafton as a nature-rich destination that complements the town’s cultural resources and picturesque charm. A large part of the Board’s mission is to reach more people and be more persuasive to help people fall in love with nature and take care of it. Under Nick Katrick’s leadership), programs have expanded across the town. The goal is to improve Grafton “hang time” which increases attendance around town in general and hopefully also increases Nature Museum attendees.. They can improve “hang time” (at the museum and in the town), attracting more people to come to the town and the museum, by taking existing resources and linking them together, in promotion and possibly physically. The independent Outdoor Trail Center, Minerals and Mining Museum, the Village Park and Grafton Improvement Association trails, Pinnacle Windham Hill trail system, Historical Museum has some natural history in it—all these entities are independent. It would be good if the public realizes that there are all these things to do here, then they may be more likely decide to make a day of it or even stay at the Inn. We are not thinking of putting things under one central command; just share a brand, marketing, would promote each other, and to the extent that we can, would physically connect trails. So, they are just at the point of talking to people. We don’t see the Nature Museum as running the plan process.
Suzanne Welch: We will be seeking grants. Grantors give credit if your idea is part of the town plan. Since our next town plan isn’t due till 2028 an endorsement from the Planning Commission or the Select Board was discussed. When the Alliance is ready, Seth said that PC would look over a text and create a letter of support.
5. Matt reached out to T & B, no response. Both proposed sites, Village Park as well as Alpine Meadow didn’t perk. T&B is back to the drawing board. Matt said that an earlier meeting we discussed alternatives. Another alternative, everything is treated inside a greenhouse and the treated water comes out usable for agriculture or for flushing water. We should meet again with T&B to talk about alternatives. There are other treatment methods running through biological places (lagoons, marshes). Consider the space where the tennis courts and empty field are. Suzanne asked if there has been any possible solutions for the 70 houses in the village with the highest risk of contamination. Matt will reach out again to T&B. In Consulting contract, he was

told by big well company to make sure to have an “errors and omissions” item in any contract with consultants. This info should be passed on to our Town Administrator. Also, Seth will check with Joe about 1) how the PC can be involved in working toward alternative solutions and also re: 2) how much of the job has been done—30%?; 3) funding of the engineering study and the \$4 million towards work.

6. Flood hazard mitigation. Some discussion of the 1-foot to 2-foot elevation requirement. Process now would be to go to public hearing now. Tell all the regional commission, tell the neighboring, tell the State—send them a copy. Notice of a hearing. Then to the Select Board to consider. Then they have a public hearing. Approval to send flood mitigation plan to publication and to set a public hearing.
7. Seth created an e-mail address for people to send comments.
GraftonPlanningCommission@gmail.com Questions for PC to run in the Grafton News.

What do you think about the current town plan and the process for making it?
What are the most important aspects of Grafton that you want to remain the same?
And, what aspects of Grafton that you think should be changed?
Approval to start with the last 2 very general questions.

8. Approval of the Planning Commission Report for the Town Report.
9. The maps are ready. Next Meeting is Feb 21, 2023
10. Bill Kearns re: flood mapping. Most of the time when I meet people re: building on a flood plain, we find another part of the property that is not in the flood plain and they decide to build there instead. Other issue: the flood plain maps are often wrong.